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No. 2.

LAST YEAR'S ROSES

BY MARY E. COLBY.

I. Birds in the apple boughs
Sang a sweet tune,
When the warm sunshine brought
Roses of June.
While as the drifted snow,
Faded with perfume,
Stealing like melody
Tells my room.

II. Zephyrus danced in and out
All the long day,
And then, and then, and then,
Their sweet away.
With last year's roses came
Something to me—
Something all pure and sweet
Came clearly.

III. All through the sunny days
It made life bright:
Rose-tinted each morning,
Golden the night.
Where did it wander from?
I know not where;
Only its presence sweet
Filled all the air.

IV. Maybe the soft wind
Brought it down,
Maybe it wandered from
The land of sweet
Perfection, the angels sent
It from above,
For a new, holy life
Commenced with love.

V. Birds sang with glad again
Their merry tune,
Sunbeams will bring again
Roses of June.
Yet their white blossoms will fade—
Faded and dead,
But sought on earth can take
My love away.

THE SECRET AGENT;

OR,
The Struggle for Liberty.

Philadelphia in 1776.

BY CHARLES MORRIS.

AUTHOR OF "LIGHTED IN PERIL," ETC.

[This story was commenced in No. 21, Vol. 56, and numbers can always be obtained.]

CHAPTER XI.

THE AFTER AT WORK.

In the parlor of one of the principal residences in the town of New Brunswick were seated three persons.

It needed not the entry at the door to prove that these were persons of high importance; their dress and general appearance being a better indication.

Two of them were dressed in the uniforms of generals in the British army; the one a short, thick-set man, with an agreeable face and very affable in his manners; the other a man of fine figure, full of feet high, and not unlike General Washington in appearance, and in the grace and dignity of his manners.

The third of this trio was no other than our old acquaintance, Allen Brooks. A week had now elapsed since his escape from his prison at Snyder's Inn. He was dressed somewhat more carefully than on the previous occasions in which we have met him, but presented no other change in his appearance.

"I have had a rather serious experience since last I met you," he said, in continuation of their conference. "However, as I am none the worse for it, my personal affairs are not to the point."

"Hardly," said the tall officer. "Yet I am curious to know to what you allude," said the other.

"Nothing that need particularly interest your lordship," was the reply. "I was unfortunate enough to be arrested as a spy, by a scouting party sent out, I believe, for that special purpose. At all events, it was more chance than they did not hang me."

"You had no damaging papers, I hope?"

"No, nor was I anywhere near their lines. I do not know where their suspicions of me originated."

"Somebody must have recognized you as having been seen in our presence."

"I have always been very careful."

"But there was no evidence against you?"

"You were released?" questioned the tall officer.

"Released by the aid of a young lady friend of mine, and by the kindness of 'Jeg,' was Brooks' reply.

"You escaped them?"

"Yes, your lordship."

"I have heard of this affair, Sir William," replied the one addressed.

"Mr. Brooks tells the truth. The story of his escape has reached Brunswick."

"I do not doubt his word," was the quiet reply of the tall officer, who was none other than Sir William Howe, the British commander. "Mr. Brooks has my entire confidence."

"And mine," said Lord Cornwallis. "He has proved himself fully trustworthy."

"I am grateful for your commendation," replied Brooks with a courteous bow.

"I fear your usefulness has been impaired by this affair," said Sir William. "It will not be safe for you to venture again within the lines of the Continentals."

"Not if they know me," said the spy, confidently. "But I have more faces than you have seen. I have not undertaken this business without a talent for it."

A pause ensued, the two officers looking at the spy with the countenance of his lordship, some doubt in that of Sir William.

"We have been conversing, Mr. Brooks," said the latter, with a show of repining great confidence in his visitor, "on the subject of crossing the Delaware. His lordship is of the opinion that we should provide means and make the attempt at once. I am disposed to delay for the present. Our reasons for these opinions we will withhold until we hear yours. You are better informed than we of the condition and prospects of the rebel army."

"What is your advice?"

"The same as yours, Sir William, I advise delay."

"On what grounds?"

"Cornwallis has not yet moved."

"I will give my reasons. You may not deem them good."

"That matters not," said Sir William. "Give your facts and we will form our own conclusions."

"You are aware that Washington's army has been greatly enfeebled by desertion, and more difficult to make. Moreover, on the first of January, the terms of a large portion of his army expire. He is likely to commence the new year with badly diminished forces."

"Just my argument," said Brooks decisively. "Enlistments are becoming more and more difficult to make. Moreover, on the first of January, the terms of a large portion of his army expire. He is likely to commence the new year with badly diminished forces."

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not at all inclined to boast of his adventure? Had he been a cheat he would have exaggerated the peril he had gone through in our behalf. We now from other sources that his escape from death was very narrow."

"True," said Howe, reflectively. "I dislike the business he is engaged in and doubt all its professions. He seems a man of too much refinement for such an avocation."

The object of these remarks was advancing through the town, towards the stables where his horse had been left. He was mentally reviewing the interview just ended.

"Delay is all important to Washington," he thought. "British spy as I am called, I think I have helped the Continentals somewhat, by confirming in Howe's mind facts which he had already heard. I hardly think that he will discover that my facts were mixed with a few mild fables. Suppose the river does freeze over. Suppose that Washington's army is disorganized. These are

"So that crab won't bite. Then there's another point of view."

"Well, let us hear it," said Colonel Ross.

"It's just this. If they're nincompoops that's no reason for your being. Do for them if they won't come for you. If I wanted to be sure to hurt a bird I'd fire when his wings were spread. There's more of him to hit, you see, and less to hit back. I've had my say now, and I've got bit outside, and none here, so I'll stop."

Perce walked coolly out of the room in which the council had been held, leaving its members looking meaningly at each other.

"You have heard this man's words, gentlemen," said Washington, now speaking for the first time. "I would like your opinion on the advice he has seen it to give us."

A long debate ensued, in which the chances of an aggressive movement were discussed in all their bearings. It was closed by Washington, who said:

As he spoke he was advancing rapidly across the fields, leaving the road he had been pursuing. A half mile in this direction brought him to another country road, converging toward the former.

He had but fairly reached it when he again assumed an attitude of attention.

"I'm a sinner if there ain't more troopers out," he said to himself. "It must be a regular parade day. What if this should be Captain Washington? I would give the best bushel of potatoes from my Jersey farm if it should prove so."

He concealed himself as before, not seeming willing to trust the possibility of its being a British troop. A few minutes decided the question. A troop rode briskly up to where he was hid, dressed in the unmistakable uniform of the American service.

It was headed by a tall, fine-featured man, riding a spirited white horse. By his side rode a younger man in the uniform of a lieutenant.

The scout broke from his covert of bushes and ran eagerly forward, calling loudly to the leader of the troop, who drew up on seeing him approach.

"Captain Washington!" he cried. "Just the man I am looking for!"

"And what can I do for you, my good fellow?" asked the captain.

"I've got a message from the British," he said, in a timely tone. "Hailo! it's my old friend, Perce Brown, in a masquerade dress."

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"Watch the thief, or help to pay for what he
 stole," detective would not, as now,
 need the stimulus of a large reward to
 induce them to do their duty. Too often
 they act as mere "go-betweens" to make
 an arrangement between the thief and
 his victim for a return of part of the
 plunder and "the question asked."

NEEDLES AND PINS

We were taking a lunch at the Cen-
 tennial grounds, and viewing the most
 interesting specimens exhibited there,
 which are the people who come to see
 the Exhibition. The first glance at a
 couple sitting near, failed to clearly show
 their relation. They were brother and
 sister, perhaps, as their faces bore some
 resemblance; or, it might be, engaged
 lovers, as his bearing seemed to show an
 anxiousness of security, while he was
 yet most attentive to the comfort of his
 partner, and she received the attention
 as though they were rightfully bestowed.
 Presently she spoke and the question
 was asked: "I never saw such a man
 as you are." "Why?" quietly asked he
 partner. "Because you never had any-
 thing yet, but what you afterwards
 wished you had something else." Mar-
 ried, of course.

There was a fine opening for an "im-
 provement of the occasion." He was
 evidently tempted to return "Everything
 comes better than it performs," in
 which the answer would have been ready
 "Including your wife, I suppose," and
 so on to the end of the familiar chapter
 but he wisely cut it in ruminant and the
 little nose turned to pink.

In it one of the elements of satisfac-
 tion in married life that the parties
 thereby secure an object on whom they
 may safely vent their impatience and
 spleen? Doubtless there is a kind of
 enjoyment in "freeing one's mind."

Expensive seem to take pleasure in let-
 ting themselves out. A thunder cloud
 is useless until it can discharge its
 wrath, though it often weeps in con-
 sultation.

Whatever may be the philosophy, the fact
 is plain that married people say an
 unpleasant thing to each other which they
 would not say to persons in whom they
 have no interest, and although they will
 bear more from each other than from
 any one else, as indeed they should, yet
 constant settling and stinging too often
 is in chronic inflammation, and the
 greater part of married misery begins at
 the first point.

The observation of a simple and not
 difficult rule will be of incalculable ad-
 vantage in smoothing the roughs of mar-
 riage. Be as courteous and considerate
 as before marriage, protect carefully
 through life, then the honeymoon, which
 shed such extraordinary lustre when the
 hymeneal veil first swung out from its
 coverings, will ever gladden the way.

THOUGHTS

Thoughts suggest thoughts, and those
 thoughts other thoughts, ad infinitum.
 Thoughts are inevitable and must until
 they are clothed in language, or em-
 bodied in works, then they can be both
 seen and heard. Without thoughts to
 direct the author's speech, the author's
 pen or the artist's hand, no work could
 be accomplished, the work would become
 a dreary waste and man would soon be
 annihilated.

Thoughts are like diamonds, they
 sparkle, no matter how rough and un-
 smooth their setting, and like diamonds,
 too, they are valued for their brilliancy,
 and the more highly they are polished
 the better they shine.

Thoughts belong to their originator
 until set free and scattered; then they
 become public property and can never be
 collected together again as at first. The
 only way to keep your thoughts is not
 to divulge them—not even as a secret!

Thoughts are precious, however, whilst
 they do no harm, do no good. Like a
 candle lit under a bushel, they burn, but
 shed no light. Therefore, it is best to
 divulge your good thoughts, but let
 your impure and evil ones (if any such
 you have) remain in solitary con-
 finement and silence, that they may be
 smothered and become extinct.

CAUTION.—It may not be generally
 known that Artemus Ward patented
 himself as that imitator who stole for
 promotion by his heirs. He, how-
 ever, they are not in danger, as no one
 has discovered in any of them to the
 original.

DESIRABLE INTERVIEW.—An ingenu-
 ous Yankee is at work upon a "man-
 nement" to be attached to the one
 (if long enough), by which means of all
 kinds may be reduced to harmony. He
 expects a large demand from husbands
 of coquette wives, from attendants
 at political conventions and neighbor-
 hoods where street bands and note
 abound.

THE AUTHOR OF CATHY.—A little three-
 year old friend of ours, being invited to
 go on a visit with her aunt, who was
 about returning home, hesitated for
 some time between her desire to go and
 her unwillingness to leave her mother.
 Presently she exclaimed: "I wish we
 had a twin!"

"What kind of a twin?" asked her
 mother.

"Oh, a little girl, just exactly like me."

"Why do you wish that?"

"Because, then one of us could stay
 with auntie, and one could go with
 mamma."

"I guess I'd leave the twin," was the
 reply.

MY BRIDE OF THE SEA

BY JAMES HENRY POWELL.

A yellow moon of a mellow May,
 A day of soft and gentle rain,
 A gentle breeze from the south sea,
 A gentle breeze from the south sea,
 A gentle breeze from the south sea,
 A gentle breeze from the south sea,
 A gentle breeze from the south sea,
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The world rolled on and the years rolled on,
 There came a day of love,
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West," which are exhibited by the Com-
 missioners of this department.

There are many specimens of native
 dress from different tribes, and also
 simply dressed with the hair or fur on
 the head, the usual embroidery in bands
 and quilting.

Among the exhibits in this very in-
 teresting building, we are attracted to a
 native costume, the advancement is as
 slow, when the years of opportunity
 given him are also considered, that
 these men but little to anticipate in
 his future, but a total decline of race,
 until at last he will become only a
 memory.

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